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BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH



# REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

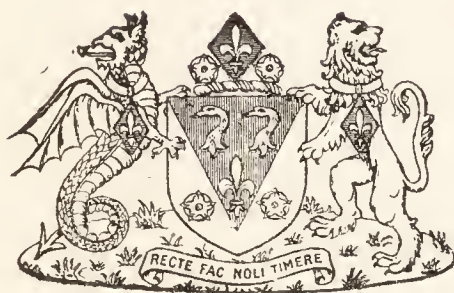
Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1955





BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH



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OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

Chief Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1955



# BOROUGH OF PRESTWICH

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**His Worship the Mayor—**  
COUNCILLOR E. MOLYNEAUX, J.P.

**Health Committee, 1955/56.**

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR E. MOLYNEAUX,  
J.P., Chairman.

COUNCILLOR Mrs. V. B. DICKINSON, J.P., Vice-Chairman.

ALDERMAN J. B. MARSDEN

„ A. PIMLOTT

„ A. L. WILLIAMS, J.P., C.C.

COUNCILLOR M. BAKER

„ J. A. CROFTON

„ F. R. CROPPER

„ H. EVANS

„ Miss E. PEARSON

„ G. QUINN

„ W. WATKINS

**Town Clerk—**C. A. CROSS, M.A., LL.B., D.P.A., Barrister-at-Law.

**Officers of the Public Health Department.**

**Medical Officer of Health—**

C. H. T. WADE, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

**Chief Sanitary Inspector—**

L. T. J. TRIPPIER, Cert.R.S.I., N.R.P., Cert.,  
Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

**Additional Sanitary Inspectors—**

V. K. HALLOWS, Cert. R.S.I., Certified Meat and Food Inspector,  
Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

(Resigned 12th June, 1955).

F. WHEELER, Cert. R.S.I. (Commenced 1st July, 1955).

**Pupil Sanitary Inspector—**

J. HEATON (Commenced 24th June, 1955).

**Clerk—**R. EATOUGH.

**Shorthand Typist/Clerk—**

Mrs. N. RAVEN.

Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Prestwich,  
July, 1956.

*To His Worship the Mayor and all Members of the Council.*

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1955 on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The population according to the Registrar General's estimate was 33,810, which again shows a very slight decrease compared with the previous year.

The \*adjusted live birth rate was 12.6 per thousand of the population, and when allowance is made for the persons in the Prestwich Hospital the adjusted rate becomes 13.8 per thousand. This rate is lower than the national rate, which was 15.0 per thousand. Similarly the adjusted death rate, after making allowance for the hospital population, was 10.9 per thousand, compared with the national rate of 11.7.

The total deaths in the district numbered 511. Thirty-three per cent. were due to diseases of the heart and circulatory system. In addition 13% of the deaths were due to coronary heart disease, and 13% to diseases of the blood vessels in the brain. Thus the total percentage of deaths due to diseases of the heart and blood vessels was 59%.

Malignant disease, that is cancer and other tumours was responsible for 16% of the deaths. Respiratory infections, that is Influenza, Pneumonia, and Bronchitis, only caused 8% of the deaths. Cancer of the lungs caused 16 male deaths and four female deaths.

\* "adjusted" means corrected to a standard population for the purpose of comparison with other districts.



There were eight infant deaths and, with the exception of one death which occurred at two months of age, all the infant deaths occurred in the first week of life. Some were due to faulty development and three to prematurity. The infant death rate of 20 per thousand live births compares favourably with the national rate, which was 24.9 per thousand.

There was one maternal death.

Infectious disease principally consisted of an outbreak of measles.

There was only one poliomyelitis case, in which slight paralysis developed, with complete recovery.

Reference is made in the section dealing with infectious diseases to three cases of paratyphoid fever which occurred in a family, after they had visited friends in another part of the country. One of these friends was a carrier of the disease.

There was an outbreak of food poisoning at one of the primary schools; the organism responsible was of the salmonella type, and it was suspected but not proved that the outbreak was due to incompletely cooked beef sausage meat which had been contaminated at some time during its manufacture.

The third interesting outbreak of food poisoning involved two persons who had received some home canned salmon sent as a gift by a friend in Canada. The responsible organism was a staphylococcus, and the health authorities in Vancouver were notified so that they could take appropriate action in regard to the unsatisfactory canning process.

There were 17 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis, and three deaths excluding those which occurred in the Prestwich Hospital.

All milk sold in the area is either tuberculin tested or heat treated. Of 122 samples of heat treated milk, three failed to satisfy the prescribed test.

The water supply from the three Water Boards was generally satisfactory.

In accordance with the requirements of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act a survey of all substandard property in the borough has been made. Some 283 houses have been recommended for clearance. The Council has agreed to deal with 137 of these in the next five years.

During the year six houses were completed by the Council, and 19 houses and 16 flats by private enterprise. At the end of the year there were 28 houses and 24 flats under construction.

There is now a shortage of sites for building purposes until redevelopment schemes are carried out.

There were 82 applicants for rehousing on the priority list at the end of the year, and a total of 511 persons on the general waiting list.

I would like to express my thanks to the Members of the Council, officers and staff for their continued help and co-operation during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. T. WADE,

Medical Officer of Health.



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**SECTION A.**

STATISTICS and  
SOCIAL CONDITIONS

## STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

Area—2,420 acres.

Population—Registrar General's estimate of :—  
home population mid 1955 .... 33,810.

No. of inhabited houses, according to Rate Books at the end of 1955—10,220.

Rateable value 1955—£254,216.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£1,023.

Social conditions are generally good, the area is mainly residential and the two chief industries are bleaching, dyeing and finishing, and the manufacture of soap and toilet requisites.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate ....	391	214	177	Birth-rate per 1,000 estimated home population mid-1955. Crude .... 11.9 Adjusted .... 12.6
	Illegitimate	11	5	6	
	Total	402	219	183	
Stillbirths	....	10	4	6	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—24
Deaths	....	511	229	282	Death rate per 1,000 estimated home population mid-1955— Crude .... 15.1 Adjusted .... 14.5

From the 1st January, 1953, all deaths occurring in the Prestwich Hospital have been assigned to Prestwich instead of being transferred to the area of the patient's home address, as in previous years. The total deaths for 1955 and the mortality rates are therefore higher. From the total of 511 deaths occurring during the year, 160 were in the Prestwich Hospital.

The figures given in the tables and statistics which appear on the following pages include the deaths in the Hospital, but for comparison with previous years the following figures are given:—

### **Prestwich Residents.**

Estimated population 33,810, less Prestwich Hospital residents (3,100 approx.)=30,710.

Mortality rates per 1,000 estimated population:

Total deaths (all forms)—351 (338—1954).

Crude 11.4 (11.0—1954), adjusted 10.9 (10.6—1954).

Respiratory Tuberculosis—0.09 (0.03—1954).

	Live births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
									Total		Neo-natal	
	No. regis-tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis-tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis-tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis-tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis-tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis-tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
PRESTWICH M.B.												
YEAR 1955	402	*11.9	511	*15.1	10	24	1	2.43	8	20	7	17
YEAR 1954	417	12.3	459	13.6	16	37	1	2.31	4	10	4	10
„ 1953	414	12.1	473	13.9	11	26	—	—	10	24	8	19
„ 1952	423	12.4	355	10.4	14	32	—	—	8	19	7	17
„ 1951	434	12.6	432	12.6	15	33	—	—	9	21	7	16
„ 1950	447	12.9	364	10.5	6	13	1	2.21	17	38	12	27
Ave. 5 years 1950—1954	—	12.5	—	12.2	—	28	—	0.9	—	22.4	—	17.8

\* Adjusted (live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.06) = 12.6 per 1,000  
(death-rate (comparability factor, 0.96) = 14.5 per 1,000)

## CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1955.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ....	7	2
Tuberculosis—Non-Respiratory ....	1	—
Syphilitic disease ....	5	2
Other Infective and parasitic diseases ....	1	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ....	6	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ....	16	4
Malignant neoplasm, breast ....	1	9
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ....	—	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ....	17	20
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ....	—	1
Diabetes ....	1	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ....	21	45
Coronary disease, angina ....	40	29
Hypertension with heart disease ....	5	5
Other heart diseases ....	49	87
Other circulatory disease ....	8	16
Influenza ....	1	1
Pneumonia ....	5	12
Bronchitis ....	14	6
Other diseases of the respiratory system ....	2	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ....	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa ....	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis ....	1	—
Hyperplasia of prostate ....	1	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ....	—	1
Congenital malformations ....	3	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ....	16	21
All other accidents ....	2	5
Motor vehicle accidents ....	2	1
Suicide ....	3	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
All causes ....	229	282
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ....	511	

The above table includes 160 deaths, which occurred in the Prestwich Hospital (68 Males and 92 Females).





**SECTION B.**

GENERAL PROVISION  
OF  
HEALTH SERVICES

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Lancashire County Council, under the National Health Service Act, is the responsible Authority for the provision and maintenance of local health services such as Child Welfare, Mental Health, Care of School Children, and Care of the Aged.

The Ambulance, District Nursing, Midwifery, and Maternity and Child Welfare Services provided by the County Council are administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme by the Divisional Health Committee No. 12 from headquarters in Bury.

Hospital facilities are provided and maintained through the Regional Hospital Board and Hospital Management Committees. Patients are admitted without regard to local authority boundaries.

The Borough Council is responsible for the provision of the remainder of local health services, and the whole of those matters likely to affect or be concerned with the maintenance of high standards of environmental health. These services include:—

Control of Infectious Disease (including food poisoning).

Provision of suitable Water Supplies.

Control of food and food preparing premises (including the sampling of milk, ice-cream, and other foodstuffs for bacteriological examination).

Provision of sanitary accommodation to houses, factories, shops and other premises, and the provision of public sanitary conveniences.

Inspection of houses with regard to fitness for human habitation.

Detection and prevention of nuisances.

The prevention of atmospheric pollution.

Control of rat, mouse, and insect infestations.

Control of Cleansing and Disposal of Refuse.

The examination of milk, water, ice-cream, and samples of other foods, and the examination of pathological specimens is undertaken without charge to the Borough, by the Public Health Laboratory Service, at the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF AND  
CONTROL OVER  
INFECTIOUS AND  
OTHER DISEASES

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

There was an increase in the total notifications for 1955 compared with 1954 (664 against 415). This was accounted for by the epidemic of measles which occurred in the early part of the year. Scarlet fever cases increased to 45 compared with 22 in 1954, but whooping cough showed a marked decrease from 126 in 1954 to 22 in 1955.

There were five respiratory tuberculosis cases and one non-respiratory tuberculosis case notified from the Prestwich Hospital during the year out of the 22 respiratory and two non-respiratory notifications received.

The one paralytic poliomyelitis case notified affected a 16 year old boy with slight paralysis of the left leg. No other case was notified, and he made a satisfactory recovery.

A full investigation was made following the notification of the three paratyphoid fever cases. It was found that the family had visited friends in Sunderland who had suffered from paratyphoid infection 12 months before, and the mother was still a carrier. The three children were removed to hospital as cases, and their parents were found to be carriers. Numerous faecal specimens were submitted over a two month period until the parents were free from infection. One child was discharged after a month's hospital treatment, and the other two after two months treatment.

Thirty-seven of the 40 food poisoning cases that occurred during the year were connected with an outbreak at one of the primary schools. The responsible organism—*Salmonella typhimurium*—was isolated from faecal specimens submitted from the affected children, and two canteen workers were found to be carriers although they had not been ill. Unfortunately no food was available for examination, and it was suspected, but not proved, that the outbreak was due to beef sausage meat which was incompletely cooked in the form of Scotch eggs.



Two of the remaining three cases of food poisoning involved female adults who had consumed some Canadian salmon which had been canned by a home canning process by a friend in Canada and sent as a gift. The responsible organism was *Staphylococcus Aureus*, which was isolated in the remains of the salmon, and in specimens from the patients. The Health Authorities in Vancouver, Canada, were notified about the unsatisfactory canning process, and they carried out an investigation and gave appropriate advice.

The remaining case was due to *Salmonella typhi-murium* poisoning, but the food causing the illness was not traced.

#### **National Assistance Act, 1948 and 1951—Section 47.**

The above section gives power to the Medical Officer of Health to remove persons who are in need of care and attention, and who are living under insanitary conditions.

It was not necessary to take any action under this Section during the year.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1955.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.												Total deaths	
	Total cases at all Ages	AGE PERIODS—YEARS.										65 and over		Age un- known
		0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—					
Scarlet Fever .....	45	—	2	11	29	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Paratyphoid Fever .....	3	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles (excluding rubella) .....	491	9	93	155	221	8	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough .....	22	1	6	6	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
*Acute Pneumonia .....	12	1	—	—	3	—	—	1	4	—	—	3	17	
Acute Poliomyelitis (paralytic), .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
*Dysentery .....	21	—	1	2	9	2	1	4	2	—	—	—	—	
*Erysipelas .....	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	1	—	
Food Poisoning .....	40	—	—	—	32	5	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	
*Tuberculosis-Respiratory .....	22	—	—	—	—	—	7	5	6	—	—	4	†9	
* „ Non-respiratory .....	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	
TOTALS .....	664	11	103	174	305	17	10	14	22	8	—	—	27	

\* The following cases included in the above figures occurred in the Prestwich Hospital :—

Tuberculosis Respiratory 5; Tuberculosis Non-respiratory 1;  
Dysentery 1; Pneumonia 1; Erysipelas 1.

† Includes 6 deaths in  
Prestwich Hospital.

**SECTION D.**

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES**

Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Prestwich,  
July, 1956.

*To His Worship the Mayor and all Members of the Council.*

I have the honour to present to you the following report on the sanitary circumstances and work carried out in the borough for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

During the year 945 complaints were made to the department relating to housing and sanitary defects, unsound and contaminated food, atmospheric pollution, and other matters of a varied nature which are referred to in the report.

A total of 1,131 sanitary defects or nuisances were discovered and 990 abated. The number of informal notices served was 237, and statutory notices numbered 19. No legal action was taken during the year.

Throughout the year attention has been given to hygiene in connection with food shops and all places where food is prepared. Every opportunity is taken to give advice on the correct methods of preparation and sale of food to all food handlers.

As in previous years the Rodent Operator has been kept fully occupied investigating complaints of rodent infestation. Treatments were carried out on 187 premises, and 1,166 visits were made in connection with infestation and investigations.

The two sewer treatments on the Corporation public sewers showed only small takes. The two treatments carried out on the Prestwich Hospital sewers resulted in the smallest take ever recorded since treatments commenced.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. T. J. TRIPPIER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

### **Water Supply.**

The area is supplied with water by the following three authorities :—

1. Manchester Corporation Waterworks.
2. Irwell Valley Water Board.
3. Heywood and Middleton Water Board.

During the year 10 samples were obtained and submitted for bacteriological examination, and all were reported as satisfactory.

Three samples of water were submitted for chemical analysis, and proved satisfactory, the amount of lead being less than 0.1 parts per million.

The water supplied from a private deep well to a farm in the Simister area, which is not connected to the public main, was sampled on two occasions for bacteriological examination, and once for chemical analysis. The bacteriological and chemical reports were satisfactory.

### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Sewage is treated at the Council's Sewage Disposal Works, Buckley Lane, Prestwich, in detritus and precipitation tanks (using alumino ferric), afterwards passing through percolating filters to humus tanks, and thence the effluent is discharged into the River Irwell. Sludge drying beds are provided. Storm tanks are provided for storm water in excess of three times the dry weather flow: this water is later passed through the works for treatment. Storm flows in excess of six times the dry weather flow pass over the storm water overflows direct to the river. Application has been made to the Ministry of Health for extensions and alterations to the present sewage disposal works to cope with the increased flow in the district.



Simister, which is a semi-rural district away from the main sewer, is dealt with in three methods:—

- (1) Part of the area is drained to a small disposal works, consisting of a settlement tank and percolating filter. The effluent is discharged into Whittle Brook Watercourse.
- (2) Another area is drained into a large septic tank, the effluent from this is also discharged into the Whittle Brook Watercourse.
- (3) Other parts of the district drainage are dealt with by individual septic tanks and cesspools.

In other low lying areas of the town, pumping stations are provided.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

	No. 1955.	No. 1954.
Middens ....	Nil	Nil
Closets attached to middens ....	Nil	Nil
Pail Closets ....	70	72
Fresh Water Closets ....	11269	11234
Waste Water Closets ....	11	13
Moveable dustbins ....	11363	11331
Waste water closets converted to fresh water closets	2	Nil
Pail closets converted to fresh water closets ....	*1	Nil
Privy closets converted to fresh water closets ....	Nil	Nil
Number of houses at which moveable ashbins were substituted for fixed receptacles ....	Nil	Nil

\* One pail closet was removed following demolition of a bungalow.

### **Public Cleansing.**

The local authority carry out a normal collection of refuse every seven/eight days from all premises in the district. Trade refuse is collected one day per week. There is a special salvage collection every Tuesday. Dennis freighters are employed on refuse collection. The Council have a modern salvage and refuse disposal plant.

A Dennis Motor Cesspool and Gully Emptier is provided for cesspool cleansing.

### **Administration of Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948.**

Mechanical and non-mechanical factories have been visited to ensure that they complied with the requirements of the Acts. There are no factories in the area that employ outworkers. Lists were received from neighbouring authorities giving the names and addresses of 61 outworkers, and all of these have been visited and conditions found to be satisfactory.

Close co-operation has been maintained with H.M. Inspector of Factories. The report required under the provisions of Section 128 of the Factories Act, 1937, is given on pages 29 and 30.

### **Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution.**

The prevention of atmospheric pollution again received attention during the year. Routine visits were made to factories, and advice was given to boiler men and factory managers where necessary. Twenty-seven smoke observations were taken, and no further action was necessary.

The Prestwich Corporation are represented on the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee. Two sulphur dioxide deposit recorders are situated in the district for observations by representatives of the Committee. Arrangements are being made for two volumetric recorders to be installed.

A public enquiry was held in January into the proposals of the Central Electricity Authority to extend the power station at Agecroft. The Ministry's consent was given to the Authority in July, but certain conditions were imposed for the elimination of smoke and grit, and the avoidance of noise, and included raising the proposed new chimney to a height of 450 feet. The existing chimney is 365 feet high.

## Bug Infestation.

No cases of infestation were dealt with during the year. The houses and furniture of all prospective council house tenants are inspected before tenancies are commenced. In the case of infested houses the premises are disinfected prior to removal. The Housing Supervisor and Sanitary Inspector visit the premises and advice is given to the tenants.

## Insects.

During the year the department's attention was called to nuisances arising from the presence of crickets, beetles, moths and wasp infestation. Liquid and powder insecticides dealt effectively with the crickets, beetles and moths, but gassing measures with Cymag poison gas were necessary in the case of wasp infestation, after which the nests were destroyed.

## Disinfection.

Disinfection in cases of infectious disease is carried out by formalin spray or formalin vapour only in those premises where it is considered necessary by the Medical Officer of Health.

Infected bedding and articles suitable for steam disinfection are removed and dealt with at the Steam disinfection station provided by the Council at the Refuse Disposal Works.

Disinfection is carried out by a workman attached to the Public Health Department.

The following disinfections were carried out during 1955:—

Rooms	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	28
Articles of bedding and clothing	....	....									186
Public Library Books	....	....	....	....	....						62

## The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The Council employ a full-time Rodent Operator, and all complaints of infestation are investigated and a treatment carried out if necessary. Investigations are also made of tips, allotments, etc., to ensure that reinfestations have not arisen since the last treatment.

There has been close co-operation with officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food, whose help and advice has been readily given.

The treatment of rodent infestations in private dwelling-houses is carried out as a free service to the public, but a charge is made for treatments carried out in business premises or on agricultural property.

The following is an analysis of the various types of infestation treated during 1955:—

						Business premises.	Dwelling houses.	Corporation self-occupied property.	Total.
<b>Rats.</b>									
Type of Infestation.									
Major	....	....	....	....	....	4	1	4	9
Minor	....	....	....	....	....	9	52	3	64
<b>Mice.</b>									
Major	....	....	....	....	....	5	—	—	5
Minor	....	....	....	....	....	27	82	—	109

The Rodent Operator made 1,166 visits in the course of investigations or treating infestations.

### **Sewer Maintenance Treatments.**

During the year the following treatments were carried out in accordance with the methods and instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

#### **First Treatment (Financial Year 1955/56).**

Test baiting was commenced on the 4th April and completed on the 15th April, 1955.

Number of manholes test baited .... 206

Number of manholes showing prebait take.... 11



The 10% test showed slight infestation in five scattered areas, and the poison treatment was commenced on the 18th April and completed on the 23rd April, 1955.

Number of manholes baited ....	77
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take....	22

### **Second Treatment (Financial Year 1955/56).**

Commenced 31st October and completed on 4th November, 1955.

Number of manholes baited ....	46
Number of manholes showing pre-bait take....	18

This treatment resulted in takes being found in only three of the areas previously treated in April, and again it was of a slight nature.

### **Prestwich Hospital.**

In addition to the Public Sewers two treatments were carried out to the sewers in the Prestwich Hospital grounds. A total of 66 manholes was test-baited, and infestation found at two points. The first treatment followed, and there were no takes in the main part of the hospital, and only nine takes were found at the annexe. The second treatment was carried out in December, and only two takes were found at the annexe. These two treatments were the most successful since baiting the sewers commenced, and prove the effectiveness of the twice yearly treatments.



**SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, 1955.**

Premises.	Inspections.
Conversions—Waste water to Fresh Water Closets	10
Conversions—Pail Closets ....	3
Drains ....	280
Dustbins—Defective ....	93
Dwellinghouses—re Overcrowding ....	86
,, re Dirty condition ....	13
,, re Infectious disease ....	109
,, re Verminous conditions ....	14
,, Under Housing Acts and P.H. Acts ....	1021
Explosives ....	36
Food Control ....	14
Notices served—Preliminary ....	237
,, Statutory ....	19
Outworkers ....	61
Prevention of damage by Pests Act ....	114
Piggeries ....	16
Public and other conveniences ....	176
Sampling—Milk, Water, Ice-cream ....	96
Schools—re sanitary accommodation ....	10
Shops—re meat ....	18
,, re other foods ....	16
Smoke observations ....	27
Special complaints ....	47
Septic Tanks ....	16
Tenancy inspections ....	109
Tips, Refuse ....	56
Water Courses ....	13
Miscellaneous ....	173
Rag Flock ....	12
Pet Animals ....	6
Factories—No mechanical power used ....	8
,, Mechanical power used ....	59
Ice Cream ....	64
Offices, etc. ....	25
Places of public entertainment ....	3
Shops ....	247

**FACTORIES, SHOPS, ETC.****Contraventions—Factories.**

Found. Abated.

Insufficient sanitary accommodation ....	1	1
Unsuitable or defective sanitary accommodation ....	2	2

**Contraventions—Shops.**

Dirty and/or defective W.C.'s ....	2	2
Not closing half-day weekly (full) .....	1	1
Notice re Half-day Closing not displayed	1	1
Premises defective and dirty ....	6	6

# **FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.**

## **PART 1 OF THE ACT.**

**1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).**

Premises	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	11	8	nil	nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	70	59	3	nil
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	3	6	7	nil	nil
<b>TOTAL</b>		87	74	3	nil

## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars (1)	M/c. line no. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	4	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7.)	9	1	1	—	1	—
(a) Insufficient						
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	2	2	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work)	12	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	60	3	3	—	2	—

**SECTION E.**

**HOUSING**



## HOUSING CONDITIONS.

Semi-detached houses are the most prevalent type in the district, usually between five and forty years old. The older type terraced property exists in parts of the district, and the Corporation's slum clearance proposals submitted to the Ministry cover 298 premises in fourteen areas over the next ten years.

It is found that there is reluctance on the part of owners to carry out anything but essential repairs to their property, due to financial limitations. In a few cases where the owner has increased the rent, the tenant has applied for a certificate of disrepair, nine such certificates having been granted during the year.

During 1955 the local authority erected six dwellinghouses and nineteen houses and sixteen flats were erected by private builders. At the end of the year there were twenty-eight houses and twenty-four flats under construction on the Carr Clough Estate, and it is contemplated that a further fifteen flats will be erected on the Kersal Road site. There is now a shortage of sites for building purposes until redevelopment schemes are carried out.

The number of persons registered for rehousing at the end of the year was 511, and 82 of these were on the priority list. Approximately two-thirds of the applicants required two bedroom houses, and the remaining number the three bedroom type. There was also a small percentage requiring one bedroom flats.

### **Overcrowding.**

Numerous investigations were made into alleged moral overcrowding and lack of bedroom accommodation at the request of the Housing Department. No cases of legal overcrowding were found, but moral overcrowding existed in a few cases, and insufficient bedroom accommodation was found due to recently married young persons taking up residence in their parents' homes, or when there were children of both sexes growing up in the same family.

**1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—**

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ....	497
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose ....	1021
(2) Dwellinghouses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a) No. found during year ....	3
(b) No. (or estimated no.) at end of year ....	283
	(slum clearance areas)
(3) No. of dwellinghouses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit....	110

**2. Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936, and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954:—)**

(1) No. of dwellinghouses demolished during year:	
(a) Unfit houses ....	None.
(b) Other houses ....	None.
(2) No. of persons displaced ....	None.

**3. Houses not included in Clearance Areas:—**

	No. of Persons	
(1) Houses demolished or closed during year	Houses.	displaced.
(a) Housing Act, 1946—		
(i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11) ....	9	28
(ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force ....	None	None

(iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12) .... None    None

(b) Housing Act, 1949—

(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3(1) and 3(2) .... None.    None.

(c) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953—

(i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10(1) and 11(2) .... None    None

(2) Repairs during the year :

No. of houses

(a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts .... 76

(b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied—

(i) By owners .... 2

(ii) By local authority in default of owners    None

(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16). Houses made fit—

(i) By owners .... None

(ii) By local authority in default of owners    None

(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 :

Houses reconstructed, enlarged, or improved and Demolition Orders revoked.

(Section 5) .... None

**4. Unfit Houses in Temporary Use. (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954):—**

- (1) No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7 .... None
- (2) No. of separate dwellings contained in (1) above .... None
- (3) No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6) .... None

**5. Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants, Etc.:**

Action during year:

	Private bodies or individuals		Local authority	
	No. of schemes	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	No. of schemes	No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to local authority ....	11	11	Nil	Nil
(b) Submitted by local authority to Ministry ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(c) Finally approved by Ministry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(d) Work completed ....	4	4	Nil	Nil
(e) Additional separate dwellings included in (d) above ....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil





**SECTION F.**

INSPECTION AND  
SUPERVISION OF FOOD

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food shops, cafes, food preparing premises and hawkers' vehicles have been inspected to ensure that proper standards of food hygiene were being maintained. No opportunity is lost in giving advice to food handlers on the correct methods of dealing with the preparation or sale of food from their premises. It has not been necessary to take any action under the Food Byelaws, 1950, against any person contravening the regulations.

The following lists give details of the various types of food premises in the borough, and the number of businesses registered for the sale of ice cream or preserved foods:—

### Type of business:

General grocers and provision dealers ....	88
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.) ...	27
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.) ....	8
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.) ....	33
Bakers and/or confectioners ....	23
Fried fish shops ....	13
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc. ....	42
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars, and similar catering establishments ....	53
Others ....	15
Total ....	302

Type of Business	Legislation under which registration effected	No. registered at 31/12/55	No. of inspections of registered premises during year
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**Preparation or manufacture of Preserved Foods, etc.**

Butchers	.....	.....	.....	10
			..... Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938	
Butchers	.....	.....	.....	4
Grocery and Provisions	.....	.....	..... Food & Drugs Act, 1938	2

**Sale and manufacture of Ice Cream**

Cafes and Snack Bars	.....	.....	..... Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938	1
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**Sale of Ice Cream**

Sweets and/or Tobacconists	.....	.....	.....	24
Cafes, etc.	.....	.....	.....	3
Grocery and Provisions	.....	.....	.....	20
Confectioners	.....	.....	.....	1
Greengrocers	.....	.....	.....	1
Sweets and/or Tobacconists	.....	.....	.....	11
Grocery and Provisions	.....	.....	.....	7
Confectioners	.....	.....	..... Food & Drugs Act, 1938	1
Cafes, etc.	.....	.....	.....	1

## ADULTERATION, ETC.

### Sampling under Food and Drugs Acts, 1938—1950.

The Lancashire County Council administered the above, and I am indebted to Dr. S. C. Gawne, County Medical Officer of Health, for the following particulars of samples taken within the district.

A total of 185 samples was obtained. Of these 149 were of milk (this total includes 22 Channel Islands milks), and the 36 others comprised:—

2 Double cream	1 Cream, canned
2 Lard	1 Epsom salts
1 Coffee	1 Boracic ointment
3 Baking powder	1 Butter
1 Pork and beef sausage	1 Margarine
1 Pork sausage	1 Cheese
1 Beef sausage	1 Dripping
1 Flour	2 Tincture of iodine
1 Curry powder	3 Penicillin tablets
1 Liquid paraffin	1 Cloves
3 Whiskey	1 Cinnamon ground
2 Gin	1 Mixed spice.
1 Orange drink	
1 Milk condensed full cream, unsweetened	

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:—

Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Action taken.
1 informal milk ....	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1.4% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 formal Channel Islands milk	Deficient 7.2% solids-not-fat. The freezing point indicated the presence of 13.2% of extraneous water.	In respect of this sample a successful prosecution was taken in respect of which a fine of £3 was imposed, plus costs amounting to £4 4s.
1 informal milk ....	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 informal milk ....	The freezing point indicated the presence of 0.6% of extraneous water.	Vendor cautioned and further sample obtained.

**FOOD CONDEMNED, 1955.**

	Tins		Tins
Pears	34	Tomato Juice	3
Fruit Salad	14	Orange Juice	4
Gooseberries	3	Soup	3
Raspberries	2	Stewed Steak	16
Bilberries	7	Sausages	1
Damsons	3	Breakfast Grill	2
Plums	15	Milk	8
Strawberries	8	Cream	2
Mangoes	1	Marmalade	1
Grapes	9	Golden Syrup	53
Blackberries	4	Red Peppers	1
Rhubarb	5	Coffee	1
Cherries	7	Herrings	22
Apples	20	Pilchards	9
Apricots	10	Sardines	1
Pineapples	18	Salmon	9
Peaches	33	Shrimps	2
Oranges	4	Crab	2
Grapefruit	7	Biscuits	2
Peas	29	Butter	7½ lbs.
Spaghetti	130	Chocolate	4 blocks
Beans	57	Sponge Mixture	24 packets
Tomatoes	395	Onions	3 bottles

	Tins	Weight
Cooked Ham	17	215 lbs. 4 ozs.
Luncheon Meat	47	25 lbs. 13 ozs.
Chopped Pork	20	9 lbs. 8 ozs.
Corned Beef Loaf	16	8 lbs. 0 ozs.
Sheeps Tongues	25	23 lbs. 0 ozs.
Chicken	1	5 lbs. 0 ozs.
Corned Beef	1	6 lbs. 0 ozs.
Ox Tongues	1	6 lbs. 0 ozs.

In addition to the above foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption, three special examinations were carried out. The first involved the examination of imported carcasses and portions of Australian frozen lamb, and 89-lbs. were condemned due to excessive mould growth on the outside meat surfaces, and inside on the pleura and kidneys.



At the request of the owner of a wholesale food storage warehouse, the contents were examined, and 1,346 boxes, jars, tins and bottles were found to be blown, rusted, or otherwise damaged, and were condemned and destroyed.

The third examination was of 626-lbs. of smoked bacon which had been delivered to a retailer in Prestwich from a warehouse in a neighbouring authority. On inspection the whole consignment was found to be of poor quality, and some of it was sour and sweating. By agreement it was returned to the suppliers, where it was examined by the food inspector of the authority concerned, who condemned 40-lbs. of the bacon after trimming had taken place.

All the foodstuffs condemned during the year were voluntarily surrendered to the department by the food dealers concerned, and were disposed of by incineration, under supervision, at the Corporation's Refuse Disposal Works.

### **Ice Cream Sampling.**

During the year, 64 samples of ice cream were obtained from persons retailing in the district. There is only one retailer manufacturing ice cream, the remainder selling only prepacked. Appended below is a table showing results on the bacteriological examination of the samples of ice cream submitted to the laboratory :—

Provisional grade	....	....	....	1	2	3	4
Number of samples	....	....	....	48	9	5	2

### **Meat Supply.**

Inspections were made of retailers' shops in the district, and conditions were found to be generally satisfactory, and it was not necessary to take any formal action. There are no registered slaughter houses in the district. There is one attached to the Prestwich Hospital which is used on occasions, and two slaughtermen's licences were renewed during the year of persons employed at the hospital.

## Milk Supply.

### (a) Licences.

The following licences under the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949—54, and the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949—53, have been issued.

#### Tuberculin Tested Milk :

Retail Distributors ....	35
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#### Pasteurised Milk :

Retail Distributors ....	45
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#### Sterilised Milk :

Retail Distributors ....	45
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### (b) Dairies and Milk Shops.

At the end of the year there were 62 distributors of milk operating from :—

(a) Own dairies in the district ....	2
--------------------------------------	---

(b) Shops in the district other than dairies	46
----------------------------------------------	----

(c) Premises outside the district ....	14
----------------------------------------	----

All milk supplies in the borough of Prestwich have been regularly sampled by the County Council Officers during the year under report. In all 122 samples of heat treated milk were obtained from sources of supply which serve the borough, and of these, three only failed to satisfy the prescribed tests. In each of these cases the authorities responsible for granting the licence of the heat treatment plant concerned were notified.

In addition to the above, three samples of tuberculin tested milk, bottled at the farm and retailed in the borough, were obtained, and on examination found to be satisfactory.

From the 1st January, 1954, no raw milk may be sold within the borough as Prestwich is included in the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No. 3) Order 1953, which allows only milk designated as " Pasteurised," " Sterilised," or " Tuberculin Tested " to be retailed in the borough.

**SECTION G.**

**GENERAL**

### **Rag Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.**

There are no premises in the district used for the manufacture of rag flock or other filling materials. Three premises where filling materials are used have been registered.

### **Pet Animals Act, 1951.**

Three licences were granted during the year for the keeping of a pet shop. Inspections were made to ensure that the premises and accommodation provided for the animals complied with the requirements of the Act.

## **STORAGE OF PETROLEUM AND PETROLEUM SPIRIT.**

Licences were granted to 20 firms for the keeping of petroleum to which the Petroleum Acts apply, and to four firms for Cellulose Solution, each licence being for the duration of twelve months.

All petroleum and cellulose is kept in underground steel tanks or separate stores, specially constructed of fire-proof material throughout, and the Regulations otherwise complied with.

### **Game Act, 1831.**

Three licences to deal in game were granted by the Council.

### **Pawnbroker's Licence.**

One certificate was issued authorising the granting of a licence to carry on the business of pawnbroker.

## **BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.**

*New Streets and Building Bye-laws	dated 1926, amended in 1927 and 1931.
Removal of Offensive Matter Bye-laws .....	dated, 1st August, 1947.
Nuisance Byelaws .....	dated, 1st August, 1947.
Offensive Trades Byelaws.....	dated, 1st October, 1947.
Good Rule and Government Byelaws	dated, 1st April, 1948.
Hackney Carriage Byelaws .....	dated, 1st January, 1949.
Prohibiting the sale of Contraceptives in Slot Machines .....	dated 25th January, 1950
Sale of Clean Food .....	dated, 30th May, 1950.
Building Byelaws .....	dated, 15th June, 1953.
* Byelaws repealed except in so far as they relate to new streets.	









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